Indians stranded in Gulf countries

*79. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRI JAGESH DESAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indians, trying to return from Iraq, Kuwait and other Gulf countries are stranded; and

(b) if so, what efforts have been made to ensure their well-being and their safe return to India?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is in touch with concerned Governments to ensure the well-being and safe return of stranded Indians in Iraq, Kuwait and other Gulf countries. Our Missions in these countries are doing everything possible in this regard in coordination with international organisations, respective local Governments and the Indian community. So far, over 1,50,000 Indians are estimated to have returned from the Gulf with assistance rendered by our missions and international organisations.

Three-tier Tariff System for National Subscribers Trunk Dialling calls

*80. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is concessional tariff under three-tier Tariff System for National Subscribers Trunk Dialling calls and no concessional tariff for International Subscriber Dialling;

(b) the reasons for which Government have not prescribed concessional tariff for International Dialling while the foreign nations give such concession; and

(c) whether Government proopse to introduce the three-tier Tariff system for I.S.D. calls to encourage trade and tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SANJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In National Network concessional tariffs are given in order to encourage utilisation of the circuits during slack hours. In case of international circuits which opearte between different time zones, the situation is not the same. Introduction of concessional tariff for I.S.D. separately is not technicalyy feasible.

(c) There is no such proposal.

"Lack of awareness about the environment/ pollution problems at the school level"

335. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is complete unawareness about the environment|pollution problems at the school level;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) the names of the States where the programme of environmental awareness is being implemented at present; and

(d) the amount of Central assistance proposed to be given to the various States for this purpose and the total allocations made for the same during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. However, the nature and extent of environmental awareness at the school level can be further improved.

(b) A National Campaign has been launched to increase environmental awareness at all levels including school children. Centres have been set up for production of resource material to create environmental awareness. Fundamentals of the ecological sciences have been included in the text books on environmental studies for classes III to V and in the text books for science subjects for classes VI to XII. In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Sche-

me for environmental orientation to school education has been taken up since 1988-89 to promote the integration of educational programmes with the local environment. Besides, assistance is also provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Wildlife Education and Interpretation" to various State Governments for conducting conservation awareness programmes including those for the children.

(c) The programme is being implemented in all the States.

(d) During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 991 lakhs has been given to various institutions in different States under the above schemes. A significant step-up in the outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan is expected.

Plan for development of telecommunications in the country

336. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out a plan for development of telecommunications in the country by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has also been approached in this matter; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department has drawn up a draft Perspective Plan 1990-2000 A.D. with the following major objectives:

—Increasing availability to a level of 200 lakh telephone connections by 2000 A.D. to provide telephone connections on demand.

—Providing telephone facility in each village.

—Arranging highway telephone facility with the spacing of 10 Kms.

—Extending national subscriber dialling facility to all telephone exchanges.

Fulfillment of the above objectives, however, depends upon the availability of resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) By 2000 A.D.

Indo-Pak talks

337. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak talks have been held recently;

(b) if so, the issues that figured in the talks; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA). (a) to (c) Pursuant to the meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan in Maldives, the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries met in Islamabad from 18 to 20 December, 1990. They agreed, *inter alia* to resume discussions on the boundary in the Sir Crook Area and on the Tulbul Navigation Project, and to convene the Sub Commissions of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission at an appropriate time.

As a follow-up, the Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities were exchanged on 27th January, 1991. Regular weekly telephonic contact was also established between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries.

The Foreign Secretaries will meet again at mutually convenient dates. This would be preceded by a meeting of the experts to finalise an Agreement on Prevention of Airspace Violation by Military Aircraft and an Agreement on Advance Notice of Military Exeercises and Maneuvres.